

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An incontinence article, comprising:

a front portion for wearing adjacent to a front of a user;

a rear portion joined to the front portion, the rear portion for wearing adjacent to a rear of the user; and

a bumper extending to transversely opposite side edges along a longitudinally outer edge ~~an entire edge of a top portion~~ of at least one of the front portion and the rear portion.

2. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 1, further comprising a front guard extending above the rear portion vertically from a waist area of the front portion to a middle chest area of a user, wherein the bumper is positioned along a ~~top~~ longitudinally outer edge of the front guard.

3. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 1, further comprising a back guard extending above the front portion vertically from a waist area of the rear portion to a middle back area of a user, wherein the bumper is attached along a ~~top~~ longitudinally outer edge of the back guard.

4. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 1, wherein the bumper is positioned along the ~~top portion~~ longitudinally outer edge of the front portion.

5. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 1, wherein the bumper is positioned along the ~~top portion~~ longitudinally outer edge of the rear portion.

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6. (Original) The article of claim 1, wherein the bumper is a block.

7. (Original) The article of claim 1, wherein the bumper is a roll.

8. (Currently Amended) An incontinence article, comprising:

a front portion for wearing adjacent to a front of a user, the front portion having a front guard extending vertically ~~therefrom~~ from a waist area to a middle chest area of a user;

a rear portion for wearing adjacent to a rear of the user, the rear portion having a back guard extending vertically ~~therefrom~~ from a waist area to a middle back area of a user;

a crotch portion between the front portion and the rear portion; and

a bumper extending to transversely opposite side edges along a longitudinally outer edge ~~an entire edge of a top portion~~ of at least one of the front guard and the back guard.

9. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 8, wherein the bumper is positioned along the ~~top portion~~ longitudinally outer edge of the front guard.

10. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 8, wherein the bumper is positioned along the ~~top portion~~ longitudinally outer edge of the back guard.

11. (Original) The article of claim 8, wherein the bumper is a roll.

12. (Original) The article of claim 8, wherein the bumper is a block.

13. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 8, wherein a first bumper is positioned along the ~~top portion~~ longitudinally outer edge of the front guard, and wherein a second bumper is positioned along the ~~top portion~~ longitudinally outer edge of the back guard.

14. (Currently Amended) An incontinence article, comprising:

a front portion for wearing adjacent to a front of a user;

a rear portion for wearing adjacent to a rear of a user, the rear portion having a back guard extending above the front portion vertically therefrom from a waist area to a middle back area of a user;

a crotch portion between the front portion and the rear portion; and

a bumper extending to transversely opposite side edges along a longitudinally outer edge ~~an entire edge of a top portion~~ of at least one of the front portion and the back guard.

15. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 14, wherein the bumper is positioned along the ~~top portion~~ longitudinally outer edge of the back guard.

16. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 14, wherein the bumper is positioned along the ~~top portion~~ longitudinally outer edge of the front portion.

17. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 14, wherein a first bumper is positioned along the ~~top portion~~ longitudinally outer edge of the back guard, and wherein a second bumper is positioned along the ~~top portion~~ longitudinally outer edge of the rear portion.

18. (Original) The article of claim 14, wherein the bumper is a roll.

19. (Original) The article of claim 14, wherein the bumper is a block.

20. (Currently Amended) An incontinence article, comprising:

a rear portion for wearing adjacent to a rear of a user;

a front portion for wearing adjacent to a front of a user, the front portion having a front guard extending above the rear portion vertically therefrom from a waist area to a middle chest area of a user;

a rear portion;

a crotch portion between the front portion and the rear portion; and

a bumper extending to transversely opposite side edges along a longitudinally outer edge an entire edge of a top portion of at least one of the front guard and the rear portion.

21. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 20, wherein the bumper is positioned along the top portion longitudinally outer edge of the front guard.

22. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 20, wherein the bumper is positioned along the top portion longitudinally outer edge of the rear portion.

23. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 20, wherein a first bumper is positioned along the ~~top portion~~ longitudinally outer edge of the front guard, and wherein a second bumper is positioned along the ~~top portion~~ longitudinally outer edge of the rear portion.

24. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 20, wherein the bumper is a roll.

25. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 20, wherein the bumper is a block.

26. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 1, wherein the bumper is absorbent.

27. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 8, wherein the bumper is absorbent.

28. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 14, wherein the bumper is absorbent.

29. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 20, wherein the bumper is absorbent.

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